

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of an Office Action dated March 21, 2007. In this response, Applicants have (i) rewritten claims 22 and 23 in independent form and (ii) amended claim 6, 10, 13, 17, and 24 to correct a minor informalities. Following entry of these amendments, claims 3 and 5-24 remain pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the PTO's indication, on page 3 of the Office Action, that claims 5-6, 13, and 24 have been allowed and that claims 22-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In this response, Applicants have redrafted claims 22 and 23 in independent form. In view of this amendment, Applicants submit that claims 22 and 23 are now in *prima facie* allowable form.

Claim Objection

On page 2 of the Office Action, the PTO has objected to a minor informality in claim 6. In this response, Applicants have amended claim 6 in a manner consistent with the PTO's suggestion thereby rendering the outstanding objection to claim 6 moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

On page 2 of the Office Action, the PTO has rejected claims 3, 7-11, and 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,992,514 to Sugimoto *et al.* (hereafter "Sugimoto"). Applicants traverse this rejection for the reason set forth below.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). See generally MPEP §2131.

Here, Sugimoto fails to disclose at least one reinforcing fin which "comprises a cut out portion of the baseplate. . . and which creates an aperture in the baseplate" (emphasis added) as recited in independent claim 13 or which "comprises a cut out portion of the

baseplate. . . wherein the at least one reinforcing fin is bent along an edge at an angle out of a plane of the baseplate to create an aperture” (emphasis added) as recited in independent claim 17.

While Applicants acknowledge the PTO’s reference to col. 5, ll. 44-47 of Sugimoto which refers to reference numerals 22 and 33 in Figure 1, Applicants submit that neither the cited passage in Sugimoto nor Figure 1 which was referenced therein depict either the presently claimed “cut out portion” or the “aperture” recited in either independent claim 13 or independent claim 17.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the outstanding rejection of claims 13 and 17 based upon Sugimoto is improper and ought to be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 7-9, 11, 12, 14-16, and 20-21 ultimately depend from either claim 13 or claim 17, and Applicants submit that each of these dependent claims is allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which it ultimately depends.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under §102.

CONCLUSION

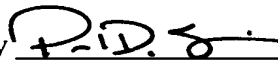
Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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